

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 AID-05 CTME-00
SNM-05 /046 W

-----103139 101156Z /11

P R 100358Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5969
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USUN NEW YORK 686

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 0235

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN, US, AF
SUBJECT: COORDINATION OF US AND UN ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS
IN AFGHANISTAN

PARIS FOR DEA

REF: A. STATE 002671; B. KABUL 0088

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH THE MEETING PROPOSED IN REFTEL B UNDER-STANDABLY SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNFDAC (PARAGRAPH 2, REFTEL A) FEELS PREPARED TO CONSIDER IMPORTANT LONG-RANGE DECISIONS ABOUT ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE ISSUES RAISED IN REFTEL B SHOULD BE WEIGHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE OF ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN. WE CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND THAT SUCH A FACE-TO-FACE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA BECAUSE MOST OF THE PLAYERS ARE THERE OR NEAR THERE, AND BECAUSE LITTLE MORE ALONG THESE LINES CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED AT KABUL AT THIS STATE. END SUMMARY.

2. UNNA MAGNUSEN REGARDS HIMSELF AS ANSWERABLE ONLY TO UNDND, UNFDAC, AND UNITU AT GENEVA. ALTHOUGH UNDP/KABUL IS INTERESTED
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IN SOME DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE ANTI-OPIUM PROGRAMS BEING CONSIDERED FOR AFGHANISTAN, THAT UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION ONLY CONTRIBUTES SOME ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR MAGNUSEN'S OPERATIONS -- BUT ACCORDING TO MAGNUSEN PROVIDES NO SUBSTANTIVE DIRECTION OF ANY KIND. (UNDP/KABUL ALSO PROVIDES SOME SUPPORT TO DEMETRE AS A UN COUTESY, BUT LACKS ANY ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS PROGRAM.) MAGNUSEN HAS SEVERAL DETAILED,

PROFESSIONAL OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT DEA'S LATEST PROPOSAL TO CHANGE AND EXPAND HIS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM, WHICH -- IN THE SHARED JUDGMENT OF A VISITING DEA ASAIC AND THE EMBASSY -- WOULD BEST BE AIRED IN A DIRECT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG MAGNUSEN, OFFICIALS OF THE DEA REGIONAL STAFF FROM PARIS, AND THE VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE UNFDAC AND UNDND STAFFS AT GENEVA WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE POLICY, BUDGETING, PERSONNEL, AND OTHER CONCRETE ISSUES INVOLVED. MAGNUSEN'S PRELIMINARY VIEWS -- WHICH WILL REQUIRE EXTENSIVE ELABORATION AND EXPLANATION -- HAVE ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED TO DEA PARIS IN A MEMORANDUM FROM ASAIC RAUB.

3. SIMILARLY, THE EMBASSY'S RECENT PROPOSAL THAT A SPECIAL UNDND/ UNITU TRAINING OFFICER BE ASSIGNED TO AFGHANISTAN COULD BEST BE HANDLED AT THAT SAME GENEVA SESSION, WITH THE ADDITION OF INTERESTED UNITU AND DEA TRAINING OFFICIALS. MAGNUSEN'S PRELIMINARY VIEWS ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL (HE IS THINKING IN TERMS OF PERHAPS ADDING A THIRD MULTI-SKILLED POLICE OFFICER TO HIS KABUL STAFF WITH TRAINING AS ONE OF HIS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES) NOW REQUIRE MORE DETAILED CONSIDERATION BY HIS GENEVA SUPERIORS AND DEA/PARIS, WHO ARE REPORTEDLY WEIGHING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL TRAINING OFFICER POSITION FOR BACKSTOPPING SUCH IN-COUNTRY TRAINING EFFORTS.

4. ASIDE FROM THE SPECIFICE PROGRAMS DISCUSSED ABOVE, WE URGE THAT THE UN'S LOCAL OVERALL MANAGERIAL NEEDS FOR THE NOT-
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TOO-DISTANT FUTURE BE ADDRESSED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. MAGNUSEN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HANDLE EXPANDED ENFORCEMENT AND TRAINING OPERATIONS WITH HIS CURREN STAFF (AND MAGNUSEN, HIMSELF, IS AN OPERATIONAL POLICE OFFICIAL -- NOT AN ADMINISTRATOR).

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CTME-00 AID-05

SNM-05 /046 W

-----103163 100541Z/11

P R 100358Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5970
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USUN NEW YORK 687

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IF AND WHEN DEMETRE'S UPPER HELMAND PROJECT BECOMES LAUNCHED -- AND, IF ALL GOES WELL, CERTAIN PHASES (E.G., THE REST FARM) COULD BE UNDERWAY THIS YEAR -- THAT PARTICULAR PROGRAM WILL REQUIRE FULL-TIME, IN-COUNTRY DIRECTION (WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT WILL PROBABLY PASS FROM UNFDAC TO UNDND CONTROL AT SOME POINT). ALL THREE THRUSTS OF THE UN ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATION HERE -- ENFORCEMENT, TRAINING, AND ERADICATION WILL, IN OUR VIEW, VERY SOON REQUIRE THE SUPERVISION OF A SPECIAL UN PROGRAM DIRECTOR, PROBABLY FROM UNDND, WHO SHOULD SEE THAT ALL UN AND DONOR EFFORTS ARE EFFECTIVELY COORDINATED (E.G. SEEING THAT SUFFICIENT ENFORCEMENT IS APPLIED TO MAKE ERADICATION SUCCESSFUL).

5. ALTHOUGH THE LEADING EDGE OF ANTI-NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHANISTAN MUST CONTINUE TO BE INTERNATIONAL IN CHARACTER AND CAPTAINED BY THE UN, WE RETAIN A STRONG US INTEREST IN SEEING THAT THE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT EFFORT DOES NOT BECOME STAGNANT OR LOSE MOMENTUM OR DIRECTION. WE SHOULD GUARD AGAINST BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS OR INACTION WHICH THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT SENSE AS DISINTERESTED, OR DISORGANIZED DRIFT. THEY ARE ESPECIALLY AND UNDERSTANDABLY CRITICAL OF FOREIGNERS WHO "INSPECT, DISCUSS AND PROMISE -- BUT DO NOT PRODUCE." QUITE FRANKLY, THERE ARE FEW CONCRETE RESULTS THUS FAR -- TO WHICH THE WORLD COMMUNITY CAN POINT WITH PRIDE -- OTHER THAN MAGNUSEN'S

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MODEST ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS. FOR EXAMPLE, ALTHOUGH THE AFGHANS WERE TOLD SOME MONTHS AGO THAT THE DUTCH AND DANES HAD CONTRIBUTED FUNJW FOR THE BADAKHSHAN PROJECT, THEY SEE NO DISCERNIBLE UN FOLLOW-UP ACTION (AFTER HAVING ALREADY REDUCED OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THAT PROVINCE). FOR THESE REASONS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS ARRIVED FOR A MORE ORGANIZED, BUSINESSLIKE APPROACH -- AND THINK THAT A PROPERLY PREPARED GENEVA MEETING COULD PRODUCE USEFUL RESULTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL00235
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-0725
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780181/aaaacqsj.tel
Line Count: 162
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6db0eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 2671, 78 KABUL 88
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3802523
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COORDINATION OF US AND UN ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN PARIS FOR DEA
TAGS: SNAR, US, AF, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6db0eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014